estimated cost of the project is Rs. 5352.50 crore with mega status. The debt to equity ratio of the project will be 70:30. The equity participation will be 74% (Rs.1186.26 crore) by NTPC and 26% (Rs.417.5 crore) by Railways. It is estimated that this will save Rs. 400 to Rs. 600 crore per annum of electricity bill of Railways.

Pending proposals for introduction of new trains

922. SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for introduction of new trains are pending with his Ministry in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh made certain proposals;

(c) if so, the details of those proposals; and

(d) the criterion for introduction of new trains and on what ground the proposals received from the State of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are not being accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 5 pairs of new train services announced in Railway Budgets 2005-06 and 2006-07 are pending for introduction.

(b) and (c) Requests for introduction of new train services are received at various levels *viz.* division level, headquarter level and Railway Board level. These requests are received throughout the year and action as feasible and justified is taken.

(d) Introduction of new passenger services depends upon traffic justification, availability of resources and operational feasibility including line capacity and terminal constraints. In the Railway Budget 2008-09, 20 pairs & 6 pairs of new trains serving the States of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively have been announced.

Model stations in Jharkhand

†923. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to develop certain railway stations of the country as model stations on international level;

(b) if so, whether any station of the Jharkhand State has been included in it;

(c) if so, the names thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to re-develop 24 railway stations in metro and mini metro cities as world class stations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government has decided to re-develop the identified stations first. Other stations would be considered subsequently based on their potential for such development.

Replacement of wooden seats in trains

†924. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was proposed to replace wooden seats in all trains with cushioned seats as per your last year budget;

(b) if so, the number of trains in which this provision has been made, so far, and the number of trains in which this facility has yet to be provided; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this matter and by when this task would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) It was announced in the last year's Budget that new manufacture of unreserved coaches with wooden seats would be stopped and cushioned seats would be provided in such coaches as in the case of sleeper class coaches. Manufacture of new unreserved coaches with cushioned seats has already started in Production Units and 328 such new coaches have so far been manufactured. These coaches have been inducted in service but have not been allotted to specific trains.

Automatic Ticket Vending Machines

925. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any proposal to install Automatic Ticket Vending Machines at major railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of installation of each Ticket Vending Machine;

(c) whether it is proposed to rope in private companies for installing the same by providing advertisement space to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the Automatic Ticket Vending Machines are likely to be installed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) So far, 243 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) have been made functional in Mumbai area and 507 more are planned through Railways funding, costing approximately Rs. 3 lakhs each. In addition, 5594 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs) covering important stations over all Indian Railway's are proposed to be installed through Partnership model. The modalities are under finalization.

(e) 3000 machines are targeted for installation by March, 2009.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.